

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A chiral compound of the general formula I



and diastereomers thereof, where

$R^1$  and  $R^2$ , independently of one another, are

$P-Y^1-A^1-Y^2-M-Y^3-(A^2)_m-Y^4$ - groups,

wherein

$A^1$  and  $A^2$  are spacers having one to 30 carbon atoms,

M is a mesogenic group,

$Y^1$ ,  $Y^2$ ,  $Y^3$  and  $Y^4$  are, independently of one another, a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

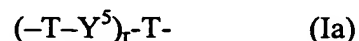
R is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,

P is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ -alkyl, a group which is polymerizable or suitable for polymerization, or a radical which carries a group which is polymerizable or suitable for polymerization, and

m is a value of 0 or 1, and

wherein the variables  $A^1$ ,  $A^2$ ,  $Y^1$ ,  $Y^2$ ,  $Y^3$ ,  $Y^4$ , M, P and the index m, in the groups  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ , ~~may be~~ are identical or different, with the proviso that, in the case where the index m is 0, at least one of the variables  $Y^3$  and  $Y^4$  adjacent to  $A^2$  is a single chemical bond.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesogenic group M conforms to the formula Ia



wherein

T is a divalent saturated or unsaturated carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical,

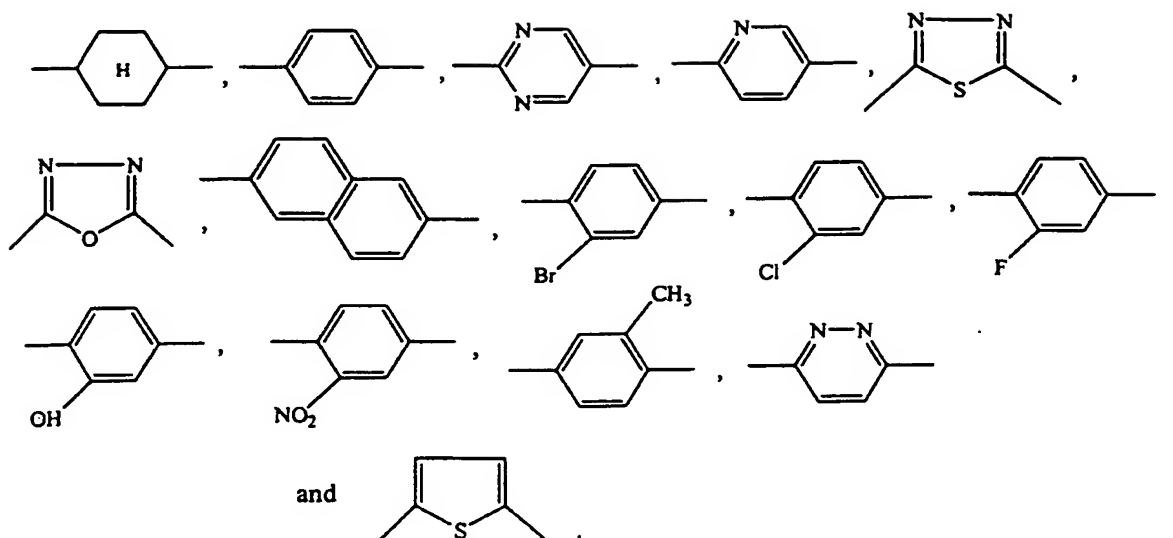
$Y^5$  is a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, and

r is a value of 0, 1, 2 or 3, where, for  $r > 0$ , both the variables T and the variables  $Y^5$  ~~may, in each case, be~~ are, in each case identical to, or different from, one another.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia, in the group R<sup>1</sup> and the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia in group R<sup>2</sup> are, independently of one another, 0 or 1.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein T is selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein , in the groups  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ,  $m$  is, in each case 0;  $Y^3$  is a single chemical bond; and  $Y^4$  corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O-; and wherein the variable  $Y^4$  for group  $R^1$  is identical to, or different from, the variable  $Y^4$  for group  $R^2$ .

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method of altering the optical properties of a liquid crystalline system, comprising contacting the compound as claimed in claim 1, as chiral dopant, with one or more liquid-crystalline systems.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1 and one or more liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A polymerizable liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1, and one or more polymerizable liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method for preparing an optical component, comprising forming said optical component from the composition of claim 7.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An optical component produced from the composition as claimed in claim 7.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method of printing or coating a substrate, comprising applying the composition of claim 8 to a substrate.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A printed or coated substrate produced from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a dispersion or emulsion, comprising contacting the composition of claim 8 with one or more solvents.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A dispersion or emulsion prepared from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

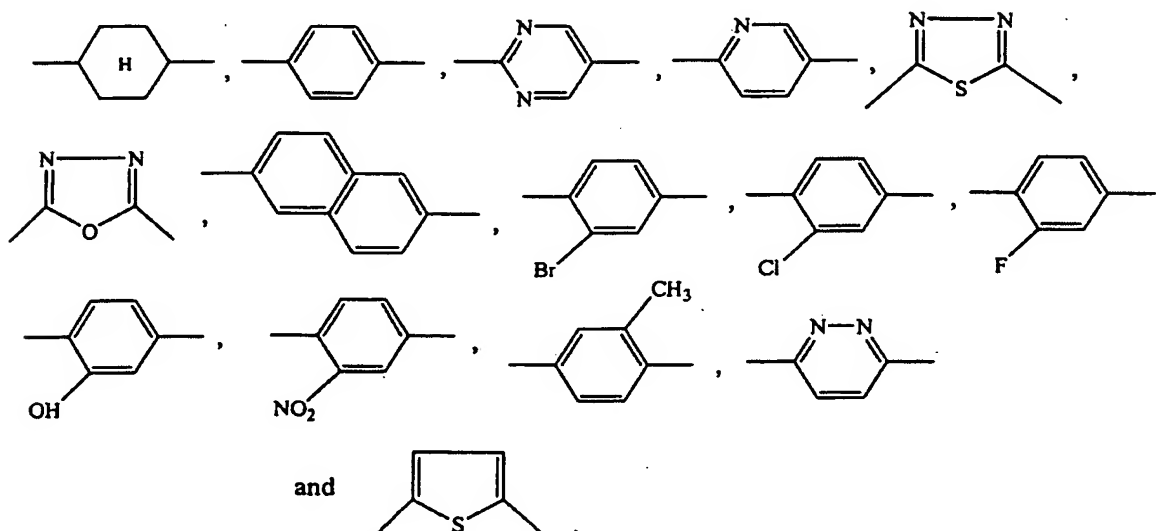
Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a film, comprising polymerizing the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A film produced from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a pigment, comprising polymerizing the composition, as claimed in claim 8, within the interspace of a mesh.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A pigment prepared from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein T is selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein, the groups  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ,  $m$  is, in each case, 0;  $Y^3$  is a single chemical bond; and  $Y^4$  corresponding to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O-; and wherein the variable  $Y^4$  for group  $R^1$  may be identical to, or different from, the variable  $Y^4$  for group  $R^2$ .